PRESIDENT : I now place for the vote of the House Demand IV—Forest—Rs. 7·67 lakhs *minus* Rs. 1,800.

The grant was made.

DEMAND V—STAMPS.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·71 lakh under Demand V—Stamps.

Motion 125.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnatur*) : Sir, I beg to move the following : —

125. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,715 for establishment by (the pay of the Supervisor) Rs. 825.*

The reduction that I propose is the pay of the Supervisor included under this item. I want to know from Mr. George the nature of the work for which the supervision of this particular officer is required.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Sir, to enable the House to understand the nature of the work of this officer, I shall explain the items of work that are being done in the institution. This institution consists of two sections. One is the store section where the papers which are to be converted into stamps are stored. This is in charge of the store-keeper. The other is the manufacturing section, which is not particularly in the charge of anybody and where the manufacturing operations are being carried on. The Superintendent looks after the entire office. The main object of creating this post is to supervise the manufacturing operations. The manufacture of stamps is now done in more than one room. There is no single room in which all of them can be put together. Hence the operations are carried on in more than one room. The necessity for the appointment has been pressed upon the attention of the Government by the late Superintendent of the Stamp Manufactory, Mr. Watts, and also by Mr. Vasudeva Kurup. The latter pointed out that it was not practicable for him as the Superintendent of the institution to have effective supervision over the Manufactory, particularly because he was also in charge of the Mint. He pointed out that, in the absence of effective supervision, a great deal of waste was experienced in the Manufactory. In fact, the wastage amounted to something like five per cent. of the whole. The cost of the paper alone that was so wasted came to about Rs. 7,000 in 1097. He therefore pointed out the necessity for appointing an officer who would be in immediate charge of the manufacturing operations. Then, there is another necessity also which has been brought to the notice of Government. Sometimes, the Superintendent has to be away on short leave, and there is no one to take charge of the institution during such absence. It is not advisable to place the next man, *viz.*, the store-keeper who gets only Rs. 35 to 50, in charge of the institution. It is obvious that the man who is in charge of the printing paper which has to be converted into

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[President.]

stamp paper should not also be put in charge of the manufacturing operations. We had sometimes to put the store-keeper in charge during the short absence of the Superintendent, but at the same time we used to say that the responsibility rested with the Superintendent. The Superintendent said that, when another officer was put in charge of an important institution where valuables costing several lakhs of rupees were being manufactured, it was not at all fair that he should be asked to be reponsible for any mishap that might happen during his absence. There is also another reason why there should be a supervising officer in charge of the institution. After the paper is converted into stamps, those portions of the manufactured paper which are labels would remain for some days in the Manufactory for certain other operations such as gumming, drying and perforating. This will take some time, say, one week, before they are transported to the Central Stamp Depôt. In the meantime, the stock will remain in the hands of the Superintendent. The Government think that it is not desirable that a single officer should be in sole charge of the stamps like that. The value of the stamps which would be ordinarily in his charge would come up to sometimes over half a lakh of rupees; so that if we put another officer in that institution we can place the stamp store under the joint lock of both the Supervisor and the Superintendent. Therefore it is that the Government are proposing to appoint a Supervisor in the institution. I believe I have explained the matter sufficiently.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not in the joint lock of the store-keeper and the Superintendent?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The rules do not require it. I have issued from my office instructions to that effect. The store-keeper is, however, not bound to take charge of the stamp-store. He is purely in charge of the paper and is not responsible for the loss happening in the stamp-store.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How long is it since the Government felt the necessity for a Supervisor?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I believe it was recommended by the late Superintendent, Mr. Watts, and then it was repeated by Mr. Kurup.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how it was being managed in the absence of the Supervisor.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is managed without a Supervisor. But Government consider that the better arrangement would be to put in a Supervisor?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In that case a Supervisor on the proposed scale cannot be entrusted with the responsibility.

PRESIDENT: You cannot express an opinion as to whether the supervisor can be entrusted with responsibility.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I recommended Rs. 100 to Rs. 125, but it happened that some of the non-official members of the Finance Committee were not for it.

PRESIDENT : You should not refer to the proceedings of the Finance Committee here.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I want to know another thing from Mr. George. It is put down in the budget that the appointment is as a temporary measure for 11 months.

PRESIDENT : That is how we have to put it in the budget. Every votable appointment has to be sanctioned by the Council.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : I want to know whether it is not possible for Government to appoint a man as Superintendent on a lower scale. The present Superintendent's personal scale of pay is Rs. 200-250. The pay of the Superintendent is, however, only Rs. 150-200.

PRESIDENT : The present Acting Superintendent gets Rs. 150-200. He draws the minimum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Is the wastage of stamps that Mr. George spoke of due to want of supervision or want of proper knowledge of the foreman in stamping?

PRESIDENT: May be due to so many things. The men will be careless if they are not supervised.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : If the foreman is not up to the mark, will there not be wastage?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : The foreman is an experienced man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Is there not a proposal to shift this institution to the Government Press?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Do you think that there would be necessity for a supervisor then?

PRESIDENT : That is going to happen some time hence.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : The pay of the appointment is only Rs. 150 to Rs. 200; but the present incumbent has a personal scale of Rs. 200 to 250. This is what I see in the budget.

PRESIDENT : He has since left it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : When the Stamp Manufactory is removed to the Government Press, will it be in the charge of the Superintendent?

PRESIDENT : That is a hypothetical question. It does not arise. It will take years to shift this institution to the Government Press. Do you press your motion, Mr. Kochukunju Pillai?

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[Mr. N. Padmanabha Pillai.]

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 126.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

126. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,715 for establishment (the pay of the Supervisor) by Rs. 825.

Motion 127.

The following motion was not moved as the member was absent:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

127. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,000 for purchase of water-marked paper by Rs. 1,000.

Motion 128.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

128. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 71 lakh under Demand V by Rs. 100.

I make this motion just to know whether Government have considered the question of service stamps. Last year, there was a discussion with regard to that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Last year I promised to look into the question and see how the service stamps came into existence. I called for the old papers from the Huzur Records. I was only able to get the Government circular which introduced service stamps. So I was not able to carry out the investigation which I then promised. So far as I can guess, the object of the introduction of service stamps was first of all to prevent malpractices by the low-paid officials who can otherwise send their official covers service bearing and that would mean that they might send their own private communications by that means. That might be one object. Another object would be to give credit to the Anchal Department for the work done for carrying Government *tapal*. These might have been the reasons which induced the Government to introduce the service stamp system. It is followed not only by us but by other Governments.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Will it not be possible to give credit to the Anchal Department otherwise?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We shall have to keep elaborate accounts then.

PRESIDENT: They will not be as accurate either.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What is the actual expenditure on the manufacture of service stamps?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is less than Rs. 2,500 a year—manufacture, supervision, cost of paper, all taken together amounting only to about Rs. 2,350.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: I now put Demand V—Stamps for a grant of Rs. ·71 lakh for the vote of the House.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VI—REGISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·53 lakhs under Demand VI—Registration.

Motions 129 and 130.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

129. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for binding charges by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

130. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,700 for Direction by Rs. 100.

Motion 131.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion :—

131. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,12,300 for Sub-Registrars by Rs. 100.

I have sent up the motion to draw attention to Rule 58 of the Registration Rules and the Government Order dated the 19th May, 1924, adding a proviso to that rule. The interpretation of Rule 58 by the registration officers caused a great hardship and as a result of the representations in the Popular Assembly and interpellations in this House the new proviso was added to the Section. Rule 58 runs thus :—

"58 (1) When in the course of attendance at a private residence the registering officer is required to accept for registration or to record the admission in respect of several documents executed by one person or to record in respect of the same document or documents the admission also of other persons residing together and entitled to the concession, the request may be complied with without levy of additional attendance fee.

(2) Similarly, several powers of attorney executed by the same person or signatures to a joint power of attorney of several persons residing together and entitled to the concession may be attested by the registering officer in the course of attendance without levy of additional attendance fee."

I do not wish to enter into a discussion as to the correctness of the interpretation put upon the word "and entitled to the concession." The dispute has been set at rest by the proviso added to the Rule, *viz.*:—

"Provided that in the cases mentioned in sub-rules 1 and 2 the admission of executants not entitled to the concession may also be recorded or their execution of powers of attorney may also be attested on payment to the registering officer of Rs. 2 in respect of each such execution."

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